

City of Minneapolis
Request for Committee Action

RCA #: RCA-2018-00651

TO COMMITTEE(S):

#	Committee Name	Meeting Date	Submission Deadline
1	Economic Development & Regulatory Services Committee	Jun 19, 2018	Jun 12, 2018

FROM: Community Planning & Economic Development

LEAD STAFF: Joan Hammell

PRESENTED BY: Linda Roberts

SUBJECT:

Mobile food stores ordinance

ACTION ITEM(S)

#	File Type	Subcategory	Item Description	Public Hearing
1	Ordinance	Code Amendment	Considering an ordinance amending Title 13, Chapter 295 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Licenses and Business Regulations: Mobile Food Stores, amending provisions related to authorized places of sale and license requirements.	Yes

PREVIOUS ACTIONS

May 25, 2018: Introduced, given first reading and referred to Economic Development & Regulatory Services Committee meeting of June 5, 2018.

June 5, 2018: Public hearing set for June 19, 2018.

WARD / NEIGHBORHOOD /ADDRESS

#	Ward	Neighborhood	Address
1.	All Wards		

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS

Lack of access to healthy foods is a significant public health problem for some neighborhoods in Minneapolis. Both price and distance create barriers to healthy food access, with price having the greatest influence on access.[\[1\]](#) In the Twin Cities Metro area, an estimated 991,177 residents live more than one mile from a large grocery store, supermarket, or supercenter.[\[2\]](#) As well, many areas that lack healthy food retailers are also over saturated with fast-food restaurants, liquor stores, and other sources of inexpensive, processed food with little to no nutritional value.[\[3\]](#) If communities lack access to healthy foods, then it is not possible for individuals and families to eat the healthy foods needed for overall good health and to prevent chronic disease. The City of Minneapolis is working on a number of strategies to improve access to healthy foods such as facilitating access to farmers markets, facilitating access to mobile food stores in areas of low food access, promoting urban agriculture, and requiring stores with grocery licenses to stock healthy foods.

The Minneapolis Health Department (MHD) is partnering with the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) on ways to increase food access for residents in their community. In September 2017, NENA conducted a community survey in the Bossen Field neighborhood to identify issues around food access, and to obtain community input on what would make it easier for households to eat healthy foods. The top strategy residents identified was having a mobile market come to their neighborhood. A mobile market was identified as a high priority, as Bossen residents are primarily low-income, and the nearest full service grocery store is not easily accessible or affordable. Having a mobile market come to the neighborhood would help overcome these barriers by bringing healthy foods directly to the community.

Based on the resident feedback, the MHD and NENA are working with the Twin Cities Mobile Market (TCMM) to bring the mobile market to the Bossen Field neighborhood. TCMM, a program of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, is a grocery store on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-resourced neighborhoods by providing a wide selection of fresh foods at or below market prices in areas where access to healthy food is limited. TCMM provides year-round access to healthy foods to residents living in areas of low food access. TCMM currently has seven stops in Minneapolis.

When determining a location for the TCMM stop in the Bossen Field neighborhood, NENA identified a city street as the preferred location, as this location would allow for the greatest number of residents to access the mobile market and provide the greatest visibility; however, Title 13, Chapter 295.30 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances currently prohibits Mobile Food Stores like TCMM from parking on city streets.

The current ordinance limits parking to parking lots “accessory to commercial industrial, or high density residential properties with the written permission of the property owner or manager.” In the Bossen Field neighborhood, NENA was unable to identify a parking lot that would allow the TCMM year-round access. An ordinance change allowing the Mobile Food Stores, such as TCMM, to park on the street would allow TCMM to bring healthy foods to the community all year. The proposed ordinance amendment would change the Mobile Food Store ordinance to be the same as that of Title 10 Chapter 188.485 relating to Mobile Food Vendors. This would allow Mobile Food Stores to park on city streets in eligible operating locations, as allowed by the licensing official. Mobile Food Stores would continue to be prohibited from operating within one hundred (100) feet of a licensed grocery store or operating farmers market, except with the express permission of that grocery store or farmers market.

Bringing the TCMM to the Bossen Field neighborhood, and this proposed ordinance change aligns with the City’s goal of, “Living well,” and that “neighborhoods have amenities to meet daily needs and live a healthy life,” as it would bring healthy foods year-round to a community with limited food access.

There is limited anticipated impact to existing licensed grocery stores or operating farmers markets, as there will be no change to the current restriction of how close the Mobile Food Stores can operate to stores and markets. Similarly, there is limited anticipated impact on street traffic or traffic disruption, as there are currently only two licensed Mobile Food Stores (both non-profit entities) in the city, and Mobile Food Store street parking would only be permitted when in compliance with “all ordinances, regulations, parking zones and posted signage.”

Public Health Impact

The proposed ordinance change would increase access to affordable, healthy foods for Minneapolis residents living in areas of limited food access by making the Mobile Market more visible and accessible for communities. This would help to promote health eating, and reduce health inequities for Minneapolis residents.

Effective Date, Vendor Education and Enforcement

This ordinance would go into effect immediately upon approval.

Notice of Public Hearing

To inform interested stakeholders of these proposed ordinance changes, the Minneapolis office of Business Licenses and Consumer Services will mail letters to current Mobile Food Store license holders, neighborhood associations, business associations, and city council members..

The letter will include information about the ordinance amendment and guidance on submitting comments related to it. Minneapolis Business Licensing will post a Notice of a Public Hearing and the ordinance language on its website.

[1] Lin, Biing-Hwan, Michele Ver Ploeg, Panagiotis Kasteridis, and Steven T. Yen. "The Roles of Food Prices and Food Access in Determining Food Purchases of Low-Income Households." *Journal of Policy Modeling* (2014) 36(5): 938-52.

[2] USDA Economic Research Service, 2015. Additional calculations performed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Numbers are based on 2010 Population Estimates (U.S. Census Bureau) and 2010 Store Estimates (Nielsen Trade Dimensions Data.)

[3] Policy Link. *Access to Healthy Food and Why it Matters: A review of the research*. 2013. Available online: http://thefoodtrust.org/uploads/media_items/access-to-healthy-food.original.pdf.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

No fiscal impact anticipated	
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